

HJR 4 -- CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

SPONSOR: Haahr

COMMITTEE ACTIONS: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Emerging Issues by a vote of 6 to 1. Voted "Do Pass" by the Select Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 7 to 3.

Upon voter approval, this proposed constitutional amendment increases the vote requirement for passage of a constitutional amendment from a majority vote to 60% of the votes cast.

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the Missouri Constitution is lengthy and unmanageable. It has been amended almost 150 times since the last constitutional convention. Many other states do not allow the use of initiative petitions to amend the constitution. The bill raises the voter approval requirement for all amendments whether submitted by the initiative or by the General Assembly in an effort to screen out ideas with minimal support and to encourage the use of statutory changes which can be adapted to changing circumstances more easily than amendments.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Haahr; Ron Calzone; and Concerned Women for America of Missouri.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.